International Seabed Authority ISBA/21/A/INF/5

Assembly

Distr.: General
5 June 2015

Original: English

Twenty-first session
Kingston, Jamaica
13-24 July 2015

Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly on behalf of the International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions

Note by the secretariat

1. On 3 June 2015, the International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, requesting observer status in the Assembly of the Authority. The text of the letter and additional information provided by the applicant are contained in annexes I and II to the present note.

2. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, may participate as observers in the Assembly.

3. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same rule further provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly and, upon the invitation of the President and subject to approval by the Assembly, may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule within the scope of their activities that are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are submitted.

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Annex I

Letter dated 3 June 2015 from the Chair of the International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions, Terrance P. Long, addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

The International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions (IDUM) would like to apply for official observership as a non-governmental organization for meetings within the framework of the International Seabed Authority. The IDUM Board of Directors has reviewed and accepts all rules governing the Authority and agrees to work within its framework. Our organization meets the criteria for application under rule 82 and wishes to contribute constructively to the aims and objectives of the Authority.

IDUM understands that, by accepting observer status with the International Seabed Authority, there is an obligation to recognize the basic principles and not to hinder its work; provide pertinent information; refrain from using the Authority as a platform for demonstrations; protect meetings and Authority documents; and specific requirements agreed to by Contracting Parties relating to participation by non-governmental organizations. IDUM will cooperate with Fish Reef and other non-governmental organizations, including Authority members, sponsoring States, contractors and sponsors. We strongly believe that IDUM can contribute to your process in a meaningful way that operates within your rules and guiding documents.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope and trust you will be able to gauge the benefits of IDUM cooperation. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

(*Signed*) Terrance P. **Long**
Chair
International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions

Annex II

International Seabed Authority observer status request

Name of organization

International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions (IDUM)

Address of office

International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions
Lann van Meerdervoort 70
2517 AN The Hague
The Netherlands

Name and address of proposed primary representatives

Terrance P. Long
Chair, IDUM
Email: chair@idum.org

Mission statement

IDUM is an international non-governmental organization that provides a volunteer platform for stakeholders to discuss policy, science, technology and responses to the issue of chemical and conventional weapons and munitions dumped or abandoned in a marine environment. The main mission of IDUM is to create an international treaty on all classes of underwater weapons/munitions. Our interests in the north-eastern Atlantic concern the potential impacts on human health and the environment of underwater weapons, including global food security from declining fish stocks.

About IDUM

IDUM is a registered society under the Nova Scotia Societies Act in Canada, where non-profits and societies must legally register under the Act. IDUM has five persons in its Board of Directors and one Operating Officer with signing authority, who oversee our activities under the direction of the Chair of the Board of Directors for IDUM. We are also registered in The Netherlands as a Dutch foundation in The Hague that is overseen by the Board of Director and Operating Officer and registered with the city of The Hague.

IDUM offices in The Hague are funded by the city of The Hague for a three-year period. Additional funds have come from the private sector, the public, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Ministry of the Environment of Poland, the Embassy of Lithuania and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Science for Peace and Security Programme. Our international dialogues are financed by delegates, friends and sponsors.

IDUM has had two international advisory boards on science and technology. The first was the International Scientific Advisory Board on Sea-Dumped Chemical Weapons. The inaugural meeting of the Advisory Board was held on 15 and 16 April 2010 in The Hague. The meeting was opened by the Ambassador of Lithuania to The Netherlands and Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the Organization for

the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Vaidotas Verba, and was chaired by Stanislaw Witek of the Wroclaw Institute of Technology. The Advisory Board and IDUM were recognized by OPCW at the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Third Review Conference) (8 April 2013) and in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea (A/68/258).

The purpose of the Advisory Board was to provide independent advice to the Government of Lithuania on the scientific, technical and organizational aspects of dumped chemical munitions in the context of efforts by Lithuania to promote dialogue and bilateral and multilateral contacts among interested Governments and international organizations, including the European Union, OPCW, other relevant international organizations and the United Nations. The Board consisted of 16 members who are scientists, academics and officials representing 10 nationalities and acting in their personal capacity.

Our second advisory board is the International Technology Advisory Board on Sea-Dumped Weapons, the inaugural meeting of which was held as part of the official programme at the fifth International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

In May 2014, IDUM held its fifth International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions in Halifax. During the conference, the International Technology Advisory Board on Sea-Dumped Weapons was established to serve as the focal point for the exchange of information, expertise, knowledge and know-how between different potential stakeholders, such as Governments, commissions, conventions, communities, organizations, scientific experts and industry.

The concept for the International Technology Advisory Board was developed by our working groups on policy, science and technology during the fourth IDUM conference, held in Puerto Rico. Responses were received for three days before the official opening of the fifth IDUM conference. The International Technology Advisory Board replaces the International Scientific Advisory Board on Sea-Dumped Chemical Weapons as we have moved forward from a position of science and new knowledge to one of action.

We are proud to announce that the first meeting of the International Technology Advisory Board in The Hague was hosted at the Embassy of Lithuania by the country's Permanent Mission to OPCW in The Hague. Members of the Advisory Board must act in their own private capacity and their work will be governed by guidelines whose development is ongoing.. The main mission of the Advisory Board is to provide platforms for networking; information-sharing; evaluation of emerging technologies suitable for underwater munitions clearance; and raising awareness on legacy of underwater munitions.

IDUM was identified for international cooperation in the report of the Secretary-General (A/68/258). IDUM chaired side events on sea-dumped chemical weapons during the Third Review Conference, at which a five-page working document on sea-dumped chemical weapons was sponsored by Lithuania, Poland,

Bulgaria and Luxembourg[a] and General Assembly resolution 68/208 on sea-dumped chemical weapons was adopted.

The Chair of IDUM gave a presentation to the Second Committee of the General Assembly on sustainable development in New York in 2010 and 2013, sponsored by the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations. His presentation provided an overview on sea-dumped chemical weapons for the strategic, economic, environmental and social aspects of Assembly resolution 68/208 on sea-dumped chemical weapons.

IDUM chaired and hosted side events at OPCW headquarters Ieper Room on sea-dumped weapons relating to policy, science, technology and potential responses, at the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, in cooperation with the ambassadors of Lithuania and Poland to OPCW and the International Scientific Advisory Board on Sea Dumped Chemical Weapons, in The Hague.

IDUM chaired side events at OPCW headquarters Ieper Room at the nineteenth Conference of the States Parties of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the Chemical Weapons Convention, in cooperation with the Mission of Lithuania to OPCW, on the need for a global database of sea-dumped weapons sites.

IDUM chaired and organized five international global dialogues on chemical and conventional underwater weapons/munitions in Halifax (two), Hawaii, United States of America, Poland and Puerto Rico, with delegates from more than 50 countries; international working groups (science, policy, technology and potential responses); seminars and symposiums.

IDUM was a co-director and associated partner for the Chemical Munitions Search and Assessment (CHEMSEA) project. Vast quantities of chemical warfare agents were stored in Wolgast, Germany, on the Baltic coast at the end of the Second World War. Those and other munitions were disposed of in the Baltic Sea.

IDUM was a co-director and a Steering Committee member of the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme in its deployment of autonomous underwater vehicles and remotely operated vehicles to investigate underwater weapons sites in the Mediterranean and Baltic seas, in cooperation with the NATO underwater experimental research centre including deployment of NATO research vessels with a view towards creating risk-assessment tools for the Baltic Sea.

IDUM developed guidelines for seabed chemical warfare agents in contaminated areas, in collaboration with the Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI). The rapid growth of the offshore industry, accompanied by changes in human behaviour, raises many new issues relating to munitions (both conventional and chemical) dumped at sea. Operating in areas that could contain chemical munitions causes the risk of disturbing of chemical warfare agents or sediments polluted by degradation agents for chemical warfare agents.

[a] Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, document RC-3/NAT.14.

IDUM served twice as a co-editor the *Marine Technology Society Journal* and commissioned a third edition for the series "A global prospective on underwater munitions" legacy of underwater munitions worldwide: policy and the science of assessment, evaluation of impacts, and potential responses". The Marine Technology Society is an international, interdisciplinary society devoted to ocean and marine engineering, science and policy.

IDUM provided three commentaries for the series of the *Marine Technology Society Journal* entitled "Legacy of underwater munitions worldwide: policy and the science of assessment, evaluation of impacts, and potential responses":

(1) "A global prospective on underwater munitions and weapons, including chemical and conventional" (vol. 43, 2009);

(2) "Moving forward: the legacy of underwater munitions" (vol. 45, No. 6, 2011), a commentary on the way to an ocean free of chemical and conventional weapons through the creation of international cooperation for the same outcome. A view of Vieques, Puerto Rico, where more than 60 years of bombing by NATO forces took place;

(3) "A growing international consensus of concern for chemical and conventional weapons abandoned in the marine environment" (vol. 46, No. 1, 2011). A view to international cooperation for remediation of underwater weapons sites.

IDUM was appointed to the Polish Naval Academy Marine Safety and Security Scientific Committee. It gave a presentation on the related resolution adopted by the General Assembly. The Chair was a keynote speaker at the "MIREMAR" Conference on Ammunition and Sea Mines in Germany (North Sea). He appeared at the Standing Senate Committee on Fishery and Oceans of Canada for sustainable habitat, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board for offshore oil and gas, as an observer to the Helsinki Commission for the protection of the Baltic Sea, as head of delegation observer to the Helsinki Commission ad hoc working groups on sea-dumped chemical weapons, and as special invited guest to the OSPAR Commission for the protection of the north-east Atlantic Ocean.

Documentaries of IDUM cooperation on sea-dumped chemical, conventional and nuclear weapons include:

- "Deadly depths" (in English)
- "Deadly depths" (in German); this was considered the best international documentary at the 2014 Green Screen International Film Festival held in Germany, out of more than 400 entries
- "Footprints of war".

The Chair of IDUM was recognized by international media as the most active man on the planet for sea-dumped weapons, bringing together the global community with a volunteer platform for cooperation.